



BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 104, Number 4

2004

“AN EVENING @ MONTANA LIBRARIES”

The Montana Library Association and the Natural Heritage Program are sponsoring this year's Library Day--“An Evening @ Montana Libraries”. This event will be held on Monday, January 31, 2005, at the Montana State Library from 5:00pm – 8:30pm. The state library is located at 1515 East Sixth Avenue in Helena. A full dinner buffet will be served, and the Parlor Pickers, a Helena-area bluegrass group, will provide the entertainment.

The evening promises good food, music, conversation, and the opportunity to speak with attending senators and representatives about library-related issues. We hope that many librarians and library supporters from around the state will be able to attend this important evening. We encourage all who are interested to come and voice their concerns to legislators at “An Evening @ Montana Libraries”.

NEW CATALOG AVAILABLE JANUARY 2005

The new Descriptive Video (DV) catalog contains our DV Loan Policy, DV Care Tips, DV Listings by DV Number and Alphabetical Title, DV Film Ratings (G, P-G, P-G 13, R, and NR), Film Summary and Length, and a perforated Order Form. This new catalog will be mailed automatically to patrons already receiving DV service. If you are interested in descriptive videos, have been an active patron of MTBL for six months, and own a VCR, you are eligible to receive DV service.

Since we have a small collection (285 DV titles), a patron may check out only ONE video for ONE week each time. Each patron may request as many DV's as they want but please be aware there may be a waiting list for popular titles. Please call 1-800-332-3400 with any requests or questions about this service.

LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian**BOOK COLLECTION MOVE COMPLETED**

We appreciate the cooperation and patience given us by all of you during our book collection move. All staff members were active participants in making this a successful move, as were other Montana State Library department employees and Lux movers of Bozeman.

Our staff offices remain on the upper level of the library, except for our Collection Manager, Carolyn Meier, whose office is now located with the collection.

If you are having difficulty getting services since completion of our move, please contact us at 1-800-332-3400 in Montana and 444-2064 in the Helena area. Let us know how we can help you! Again—Thank You!

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LIBRARY HOURS: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm **PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
PHONE NUMBERS: 1-800-332-3400 or 406-444-2064

For patron requests or if you're not sure who to contact, e-mail us at:

mtbl@state.mt.us

MTBL WEBSITE: www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl
WEBOPAC SITE: www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us

REGIONAL LIBRARIAN: Christie Briggs, cbriggs@state.mt.us
COORDINATOR VOL SVC: Diane Gunderson, dgunderson@state.mt.us
CIRCULATION CLERK: Carolyn Meier, cameier@state.mt.us
MACHINE LENDING AGENT: Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us
READER ADVISORS: Patrons with last names A-G contact:
Janet Hunter, jhunter@state.mt.us
Patrons with last names H-O contact:
Cheryl Christopher, cchristopher@state.mt.us
Patrons with last names P-Z contact:
Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR: Cheryl Christopher

LIBRARIAN'S LOG: (Continued from page 2)**FLASH TECHNOLOGY: THE PERFECT FIT FOR NLS**

The format for future digital books produced by NLS will be “flash memory” cartridges. NLS considered the CD format but quickly learned from patrons the difficulty of handling CD's and how easily they are damaged. CD players are fragile as well and repairs are expensive.

The flash memory cartridges will be about 2 X 3-1/2 inches in size and thicker than a standard credit card. Flash memory is more durable, easier to handle and simpler to use than other digital media. Each cartridge has a “plug” where it connects into the digital playback machine (to be produced by 2008). The cartridge will be big enough to have a print and Braille label with author, title, book number, chronological numbering of the flash cartridge (i.e., 1 of 1; 1 of 2, etc.) and the copyright. An entire cartridge can be played from beginning to end without having to change any switches or turning the cartridge over. The player will always keep track of where the reader left off. Stay tuned for more updates as progress continues at NLS.

NEW STATE LIBRARIAN

Darlene Staffeldt was recently promoted as the new State Librarian of Montana. She replaces Dr. Karen Strege who held this position for the past eight years. We wish Dr. Strege the best in all her future endeavors. Mrs. Staffeldt is not a new face to the Montana State Library. She has served Montana residents and fellow librarians during the past 28 years in the following capacities: Reference Librarian, Library Development Consultant, Director of Information Resources and Director of Statewide Library Resources. Mrs. Staffeldt will continue to support all aspects and services the MSL offers, including our TBL services. She said: “As the new State Librarian, there will be changes, but one thing that does not change is the commitment to providing excellent library services to all Montanans.” Welcome to our new State Librarian—Darlene Staffeldt.

MONTANA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

The October MEA-MFT Conference was held in Helena and afforded a great opportunity for me to discuss the services we offer to students and schools. Teachers from all over Montana were grateful to learn of our services for students with sight and reading disabilities.

LIBRARIAN'S LOG: (Continued from page 3)**NLS COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The NLS Collection Development Committee is comprised of NLS Collection Development Staff, Network Regional Librarians, patrons, and representatives of patron organizations including the American Federation for the Blind, the Blinded Vets, and the National Federation of the Blind. They meet once annually. Its main purpose is to select the books that will be recorded and added to our NLS collection of recorded books. Christie Briggs will be serving a term in 2005 on this valuable committee so Montana will be well represented.

NEWSLINE

Thanks to the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB), Newsline will be available to Montana patrons for one year, starting January 1, 2005. Newsline is a toll free phone-in newspaper service that offers major newspapers (New York Times, US News and World Report, etc.) to people with visual disabilities. MAB has made this commitment for 2005 with the intent to find other funding sources to assist in continuing Newsline services for future years. MTBL will be in charge of signing up participants for this valuable phone newspaper service. All patrons who previously signed up for Newsline services are still eligible to receive Newsline.

MAB CONVENTION TO BE HELD NEXT SPRING

The Capital City Chapter of the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) will sponsor the MAB Symposium and Convention May 13-15, 2005 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena. This year's theme is "True Vision goes Beyond Sight". This event is open to the public.

Convention fees cover Saturday and Sunday sessions. They also include the luncheon and banquet. Friday events will be free. There will be double sessions held on Friday and vendors displaying assistive visual equipment for you to try. The speakers include representatives from eye physicians, State of Montana's Blind and Low Vision Department, and the Veteran's Administration. Topics to be covered include: age-related macular degeneration, corneal transplants, diabetes, and other related information.

Please contact Jim Hopkins at 1-406-442-2144 or bigjimhopkins@earthlink.net for more information.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE HOLIDAYS

Friday	December 24, 2004	Christmas Eve
Friday	December 31, 2004	New Year's Eve
Monday	January 17, 2005	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON HELD

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) staff honored its volunteers at a special luncheon held on October 12th at the Helena Elks Lodge #193 to show its appreciation for their valuable contributions to our library. The theme for this year's event was "Hats Off to our Volunteers". The staff and volunteers had fun modeling their favorite hats as they enjoyed the luncheon. Author Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs presented the keynote address titled "In Search of Perfect Harmony; Keeping an Expedition Happy Now and Then". A Special Appreciation award was presented to Forrest and Liz (Elizabeth) Jackson by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. Diane Gunderson, Coordinator of Volunteers presented the Recording Team of the Year award to Dorothy Harper, Lea Blunn, and Dorothy Carpenter. Gloria Purcell received the Telephone Pioneer award from Darlene Staffeldt, Director of Statewide Library Resources. The Years of Service awards went to the following volunteers: 20 years—Howard Bloom; 10 years—Mary Biskupiak, Herb Blunn, Jane Briney, John Doig, Frank Flynn, Inez Hohn, Liz Jackson, and Noel Phillips; 5 years---Elaine LaCroix. Karen Strege, State Librarian presented Alyssa Gunderson, Thomas Lund, and Brynn McKinney with their Youth Volunteer awards. Appreciation gifts were presented to all of our volunteers. We would not be able to deliver the level of services without their help. Thank you!

BECAUSE YOU'RE SPECIAL

We sometimes take for granted in the rush of all we do,
And forget to say a special thanks to volunteers like you!
So we send this note to tell you how much all you do means,
Your gifts of time and of yourself are special ones indeed!

AUTHORS CHALLENGED

The American Library Association (ALA) identified these as the top ten authors from 1990 to present during Banned Book Week:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alvin Schwartz | 6. Katherine Paterson |
| 2. Judy Blume | 7. Stephen King |
| 3. Robert Cormier | 8. R.L. Stine |
| 4. J.K. Rowling | 9. John Steinbeck |
| 5. Michael Willhoite | 10. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor |

RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM**MCB 712 Girl from the Gulches** by Ellen Baumler; Reader—Mary Olsen

This memoir begins with Mary Ronan's growing up years on the Montana mining frontier. It continues with her ascent to young womanhood on a farm in southern California and her experiences as a student in a Los Angeles convent school. Mary then recalls her return to Montana as a bride, and her life on the Flathead Indian Reservation as wife of an Indian agent. 2 Cassettes.

MCB 725 Been Any Bigger I'd Have Said So! by Scotty Zion; Reader—Al Adams

Scotty Zion writes about his memories of growing up as a homestead kid in Montana. He includes tales from his lifelong career in house moving. Scotty's colorful descriptions of even his worst adventures cause many uncontrollable guffaws and explosive belly laughs. 1 Cassette.

MCB 748 When the Meadowlark Sings by Nedra Sterry; Reader—Ruth Straley

Nedra Sterry was born in 1918 in Fort Benton, Montana. As the daughter of hauled-out homesteaders, she grew up in a succession of isolated one-room schools in northern and central Montana. It was here her mother, a teacher, eked out a living for the family. 2 Cassettes.

MCB 751 The Truth About Butte by Mike Byrnes; Reader—Charles Briggs

A primary source history of Butte mining union conflicts in the first two decades of the Twentieth Century. It is a union perspective about labor negotiations with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, and a personal insight into the formative years of the Butte community. 1 Cassette.

MCB 754 Curve of the World by Marcus Stevens; Reader—Judy Browning

Lewis Burke, an American businessman, is on a plane that is hijacked in Africa. He escapes only to be faced with finding his way through the jungles of a country he does not know. His wife and blind son journey to Africa to try to find him. This is a tale of adventure, fear, and love of a family. 2 Cassettes.

SOME HOLIDAY SELECTIONS

- MCB 253** To Be Wanted at Christmastime by Gerald Sullivan
- RC 12422** Joy to the World: Christmas Legends by Ruth Sawyer
Grades 3-6 and older
- RC 22326** Hanukkah: Festivals and Holidays by June Behrens
Grades 2-4 and older
- RC 26070** The Bird's Christmas Carol by Kate Douglas Wiggin
Grades 4-7
- RC 32621** Kwanzaa: an African-American Holiday by Haki R Madhubuti
Grades 7-12 and older
- RC 33258** Kwanzaa by Deborah M Chocolate
Kindergarten-Grade 3 and older
- RC 33387** Little Snowgirl: An Old Russian Tale by Carolyn Croll
Preschool-Grade 2
- RC 33846** Go to Sleep, Nicholas Joe by Marjorie Wei Sharmot
Pre-school-Grade 2
- RC 38118** The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
Grades 3-6 and older
- RC 38867** A Season of Angels by Debbie Macomber
- RC 40471** The Christmas Tree Ship by Jeanette Winter
Preschool-Grade 2
- RC 43546** A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- RC 43882** The Christmas Mystery Jostein Gaarder
- RC 51581** The Jar of Fools: Eight Hanukkah Stories by Eric A Kimmel
Grades 2-4 and older
- RC 53292** The Mitford Snowmen: A Christmas Story by Jan Karon

**Montana Talking Book Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter
for the Blind**

Address Service Requested

**This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or
visit our website: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>**

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

During this Christmas season,
May you be blessed
With the **Spirit of the Season**,
Which is **Peace**,
The **Gladness of the Season**,
Which is **Hope**,
And the **Heart of the Season**,
Which is **Love**.

Somehow not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
**The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.**
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

--John Greenleaf Whittier